

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/003220

Concerning point V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 5 337 772 A

D2: US 5 137 044 A

D3: US 3 970 096 A

D4: US 5 421 355 A

2.1 The present application does not satisfy the conditions set out in PCT Article 33(1), since the subject matter of claim 1 does not imply any inventive step as defined by PCT Article 33(3), for the following reasons.

Document D1 which is considered as representing the most pertinent state of the art, discloses a self-deployable tent comprising a hoop structure comprising a base loop (2B) and at least one top loop (2A), and a roof sheet (5) secured to the base loop (2B) and the top loop (2A).

2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 differs from that disclosed in D1 in that: said tent includes an inside chamber (6) disposed under the roof sheet (5), said chamber (6) having a top portion (6a) that is secured to the top loop (3) by flexible spacer means (8) and a bottom portion (6b) that is secured to the base loop (2), and that in the deployed position, the tension in the roof sheet (5) and the inside chamber (6) is such that they are held apart from each other by the spacer means (8).

These characteristics seek to ensure that an inside chamber is put into place inside the self-deployable tent without that requiring handling operations additional to the self-deployment of the tent (cf. description p.2/l.28 - p.3/l.5 [page and line numbers refer to the French text]).

These characteristics are nevertheless used for the same purpose in a similar self-deployable tent (cf. document D2, col. 10/l. 47-60/Fig. 18). It would appear obvious to the person skilled in the art to apply such characteristics, with a corresponding effect, in a self-deployable tent in accordance with document D1, and thus achieve a tent in accordance with claim 1, without exercising any inventive step.

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3.1 Dependent claims 2-7 do not appear to contain any additional characteristic which, in combination with the subject matter of any of the claims from which they depend, might be capable of establishing an inventive step:

- claims 2, 3; are known from D1 (cf. col.4/l.32-47/Fig.1,2), door (18), window (22));
- claims 4-7; structural arrangements known for their inherent advantages, e.g. document D3 col.4/l.65-col.5/l.40 and for claims 4-6 and document D4, col.4/l.27-55/Fig.2,3 for claim 7.

3.2 The characteristics introduced by claim 8 appear to be suitable for establishing an inventive step, because the problem of adjusting the self-deployable tent is neither commonplace, nor recognized in any of the prior art.